

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 00362

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: FANCIFUL PLOTS IN QUEBEC

REF: A. QUEBEC 0303 B. QUEBEC 0322 C. QUEBEC 0323

1. QUEBEC MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CLAUDE MORIN, YESTERDAY TOLD ME GOQ HAS NOW ESTABLISHED GENESIS OF "CIA PLOT" STORY WHICH APPEARED IN LE SOLEIL LAST MONTH.(SEE REFS B AND C) MORIN CLAIMS AN INDIVIDUAL APPROACHED AN ASSISTANT OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE WITH WHAT THIS PERSON ALLEGED TO BE INFORMATION OF A SECRET PLOT TO "DESTABILIZE" QUEBEC GOVERNMENT AND "ELIMINATE" THREE OR FOUR MINISTERS. TWO POLICE AGENTS WERE DESPATCHED BY MINJUSTICE TO TORONTO IN JANUARY TO OBSERVE MEETING WHICH INFORMER CLAIMED WOULD TAKE PLACE AMONG PLOTTERS WHO WERE TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF CIA AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES.

2. POLICE AGENTS STAKED OUT HOTEL WHERE MEETING WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT COULD FIND NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCH GATHERING. POLICE THEN CHECKED INFORMANT'S STORY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. THEY FINALLY CAME TO CONCLUSION THAT STORY WAS FALSE AND THE DOCUMENTS FORGERIES. THE CASE WAS DROPPED BY THE POLICE
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WHEN THEY CONCLUDED THAT THEY HAD BEEN DUPED BY TRICKSTER ATTEMPTING GET ON THEIR PAYROLL AS "SECRET AGENT."

3. PURVEYOR OF CONSPIRACY WAS PERSISTENT. WHEN HE HEARD NOTHING FROM AUTHORITIES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, HE CONTACTED SOME YOUNG JOURNALISTS IN QUEBEC. LATTER WERE PREDISPOSED BELIEVE IN CIA PLOT HAVING CUT IDEOLOGICAL TEETH ON ROMANTIC HISTORIES OF CIA/ITT

CONSPIRACIES AGAINST ALLENDE IN CHILE. ACCORDING TO MORIN, THEY REFUSED AND STILL REFUSE ACCEPT DENIALS OF GOQ THAT NO EVIDENCE EXISTS OF GENUINE PLOT.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ANONYMOUS MEMBER OF QUEBEC CABINET CITED AS SOURCE IN ORIGINAL LE DEVOIR ARTICLE (REF A), MORIN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. PRESSED FURTHER, HE ADMITTED THAT IT POSSIBLE THAT "ONE OR TWO CABINET MEMBERS BELIEVE IN PLOT," BUT HEATEDLY DENIED THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY OF THE "SENIOR MEMBERS" OF GOQ.

5. COMMENT: LE SOLEIL STOPPED PUBLICATION AS RESULT OF STRIKE SHORTLY AFTER LAST STORY IN SERIES APPEARED ON AUGUST 29. HOPEFULLY, TIME AND MINJUSTICE BEDARD'S SOMEWHAT TARDY BUT DEFINITE DENIAL WILL DAMPEN EDITOR'S ENTHUSIASM FOR STORY BY TIME PUBLICATION IS RENEWED. HOWEVER, EAGER YOUNG JOURNALISTS WHO REMAIN CONVINCED OF PLOT'S EXISTENCE MAY CONTINUE DIGGING FOR SENSATIONAL STORY. THEIR PERSISTENT INTEREST AND EVIDENT NAIVETE COULD ENCOURAGE OTHER PLOT FABRICATORS TO SURFACE THEIR WARES. SHOULD THIS COME TO PASS, ONE CAN ONLY HOPE GOQ WILL BE MORE FORTHRIGHT AND EFFECTIVE IN SQUELCHING THEM THAN IT WAS IN ABOVE INGLORIOUS TALE.
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